



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN DEBATES

Wednesday, 25th February, 1948

OFFICIAL REPORT

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Wednesday, the 25th February, 1948.

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met in the Assembly Chamber Karachi, at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah) in the Chair.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

Mr. President : Members who have not already presented their credentials and signed the Roll of Members will please do so now.

The following Members then presented their credentials and signed the Register.

1. Mian Mumtaz Mohammad Khan Daultana (West Punjab : Muslim) ;
2. Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan (West Punjab : Muslim) ; and
3. Moulavi Ebrahim Khan (East Bengal : Muslim).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE ETC—(contd.).

Mr. President : The House will now resume consideration of the following motion moved by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan on the 24th February, 1948 :—

“That this Assembly do adopt the draft Rules of Procedure as approved by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Powers of President, etc.,,

***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (East Bengal : Muslim) :** Sir, I am suggesting the following amendments. First of all—

“That in sub-rule (2) of rule 5 in place of the words “being called upon to do so by the President” the following be substituted, namely—

‘receiving an intimation from the president calling upon him to do so’.”

Sub-clause (2) will run thus with this amendment :—

“(2) If a member duly elected to the Assembly refuses or fails to take the oath of allegiance to the Federation of Pakistan within two weeks of his receiving an intimation from the President calling upon him to do so he shall cease to be a member of the Assembly and his seat shall become vacant”.

No. 2 the proviso—

‘That after sub-rule (2) of rule 5 the following proviso be added, namely—

‘Provided that the President shall have the power to extend the period mentioned above on sufficient cause being shown by the member for his failure to take the oath of allegiance within the aforesaid period’.”

Sir, so far as the first amendment is concerned there was some vagueness in the phraseology. It was not clear whether the time would run from the date of the member receiving the intimation or from the date of issue of the intimation. There might be some difficulty in deciding that and, if it was decided on a particular occasion that the date should run from the date of the issue of the intimation from the Office of the President, in that case the member will be put to a real difficulty. If this amendment is accepted that will obviate the difficulty I am pointing out.

So far as the second amendment is concerned it is practically the same as was suggested yesterday.

No further comment is necessary.

*Speech not corrected by the Honourable member

[Mr. Tamizuddin Khan]

I may again say, Sir, that so far as this rule and this amendment is concerned it will come into operation very rarely. We are making rules for the Constituent Assembly. This Assembly is expected to last for a year or two not more than that—as we can visualise, and there is going to be no General Election to the Constituent Assembly. One or two casual vacancies may occur and elections may take place on those occasions and those one or two members who are elected will certainly be very alive to their election and try to take the oath of allegiance as early as possible. Therefore, so far as this rule is concerned, it will come very rarely into operation, if at all. Therefore, I think that if it is accepted in this form it will serve the purpose, if at all an occasion like that arises.

Prof. Raj Kumar Chakraverty (East Bengal : General) : Will the Honourable Member read it again ?

Mr. President : Order, order. Amendments moved :

“That in sub-rule (2) of Rule 5 in place of the words ‘being called upon to do so by the President’ the following be substituted, namely :—

‘receiving an intimation from the President calling upon him to do so’.”
and

“That after sub-rule (2) of Rule 5 the following proviso be added, namely :—

‘Provided that the President shall have the power to extend the period mentioned above on sufficient cause being shown by the member for his failure to take the oath of allegiance within the aforesaid period’.”

The Honourable Mr. Abdul Hamid (East Bengal : Muslim) : I beg to move a further amendment—

“Provided that the President may extend the period mentioned.”—
deleting the other words.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan :) Sir, I do not think that that will improve the position.

Mr. Sardar Bahadur Khan (N.-W.F.P. : Muslim) : The draft prepared by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, does not meet the point raised by Mr. Feroz Khan Noon. His point was that if a member is served with a notice to take the oath of allegiance and the notice is delivered to him just after the lapse of fifteen days' time then the member will stand unseated automatically. When he comes to know that he has been unseated he has got a right to make a representation to the President that he has not been properly served with a notice. To meet this contingency the President should have the power to reinstate that member on being assured that the notice was 'not properly served or that there was other reasonable excuse for him not to attend. So the amendment should be re-drafted in order to meet that contingency.

Mr. President : It is entirely a different point altogether. It has nothing to do with this amendment at all, because sub-clause (2) of rule 5 says :

“(2) If a member duly elected to the Assembly refuses or fails to take the oath of allegiance to the Federation of Pakistan within two weeks of his being called upon to do so by the President he shall cease to be a member of the Assembly and his seat shall become vacant.”

It is entirely a question now of fact which may or may not arise, namely, the member whom a notice has been sent to take the oath of allegiance has not received the notice at all. Well when he has got to satisfy the proper authority that he never received any notice how can the rule operate against him. It has nothing to do with this amendment. Therefore I now proceed to put the first amendment to vote. The question is :

That in sub-rule (2) of rule 5 in place of the words ‘being called upon to do so by the President’ the following be substituted, namely :—

‘receiving an intimation from the President, calling upon him to do so’,

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President. I now put the second amendment to vote. The question is :

“That after sub-rule (2) of rule 5 the following proviso be added, namely:—

‘Provided that President shall have the power to extend the period mentioned above on sufficient cause being shown by the member for his failure to take the oath of allegiance within the aforesaid period’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : Now I put Rule No. 5 as amended to the vote of the House. The question is :

“That Rule No. 5 as amended stand part of the Rules”.

The motion was adopted.

Rule No. 5 as amended was added to the Rules of Procedure.

Mr. President : The question is :

“That rule 29 stand part of the Rules”.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Dutta (East Bengal : General) : Mr. President, Sir, I move :

“That in sub-rule (1) of rule 29, after the word “English” in line 2, the words “or Bengalee”, be inserted.”

May I move the other motion as that can be considered together because that relates to the same rule ?

Mr. President : I think you take them separately and not together. You may take item No. 2 on the agenda—your first amendment.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Dutta : May I speak, Sir ?

Mr. President : Yes. Speak.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Dutta : Mr. President, Sir, in moving this—the motion that stands in my name—I can assure the House that I do so not in a spirit of narrow Provincialism, but, Sir, in the spirit that this motion receives the fullest considerations at the hands of the members present. I know, Sir, that Bengalee is a Provincial language, but, so far our State is concerned, it is the language of the majority of the people of the State. So although it is a Provincial language but, as it is a language of the majority of the people of the State and it stands on a different footing therefore. Out of six crores and ninety lakhs of people inhabiting this State, 4 crores and 40 lakhs of people speak the Bengalee language. So, Sir, what should be the State language of the State ? The State language of the State should be the language which is used by the majority of the people of the State, and for that, Sir, I consider that Bengalee language is a *lingua franca* of our State. It may be contended with a certain amount of force that even in our sister Dominion the Provincial languages have not got the status of a *lingua franca* because in her sister Dominion of India the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly is conducted in Hindustani, Hindi or Urdu or English. It is not conducted in the Bengalee language but so far as the Bengalee is concerned out of 30 crores of people inhabiting that sister Dominion two and a half crores speak the Bengalee language. Hindustani, Hindi or Urdu has been given an honoured place in the sister Dominion because the majority of the people of the Indian Dominion speak that language. So we are to consider that in our State if it is found that the majority of the people of the State do speak the Bengalee language then Bengalee should have an honoured place even in the Central Government.

I know, Sir, I voice the sentiments of the vast millions of our state. In the meantime I want to let the House know the feelings of the vastest millions of our State. Even Sir, in the Eastern Pakistan where the people numbering four

[Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta]

crores and forty lakhs speak the Bengalee language the common man even if he goes to a Post Office and wants to have a money order form finds that the money order is printed in Urdu language and is not printed in Bengalee language or it is printed in English. A poor cultivator, who has got his son, Sir, as a student in the Dacca University and who wants to send money to him, goes to a village Post Office and he asks for a money order form, finds that the money order form is printed in Urdu language. He cannot send the money order but shall have to rush to a distant town and have this money order form translated for him and then the money order, Sir, that is necessary for his boy can be sent. The poor cultivator Sir, sells a certain plot of land or a poor cultivator purchases a plot of land and goes to the stamp vendor and pays him money but cannot say whether he has received the value of the money in stamps. The value of the stamp, Sir, is written not in Bengalee but is written in Urdu and English. But he cannot say, Sir, whether he has got the real value of the stamp. These are the difficulties experienced by the common man of our State. The language of the State should be such which can be understood by the common men of the State. The common men of the State numbering four crores and forty millions find that the proceedings of this Assembly which is their mother of parliaments is being conducted in a language, Sir, which is unknown to them. Then, Sir, English has got an honoured place, Sir, in Rule 29. I know, Sir, English has got an honoured place because of the international character.

But, Sir, if English can have an honoured place in Rule 29—that the proceedings of the Assembly should be conducted in Urdu or English why Bengalee, which is spoken by four crores forty lakhs of people should not have an honoured place, Sir, in rule 29 of the Procedure Rules. So, Sir, I know I am voicing the sentiments of the vast millions of our State and therefore Bengalee should not be treated as a Provincial Language. It should be treated as the language of the State. And therefore, Sir, I suggest that after the word 'English' the words 'or Bengalee' be inserted in Rule 29.

I do not wish to detain the House but I wish that the Members present here should give a consideration to the sentiments of the vast millions of our State, Sir, and should accept the amendment that has been moved by me.

Mr. President : I may read out the amendment again. Some Members might not have it.

Amendment moved :

"That in sub-rule (1) of rule 29, after the word 'English' in line 2, the words 'or Bengali' be inserted."

Mr. Prem Hari Barma (East Bengal : General) Sir, I whole-heartedly support the amendment moved by my Hon'ble and esteemed friend, Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta; Sir, this amendment does not seek to oust English or Urdu altogether but it seeks only to have Bengalee as one of the media spoken in the Assembly by the Members of the Assembly.

So it is not the intention of the amendment altogether to oust English or Urdu, but to have Bengalee also as the *lingua franca* of the State. Sir, as my Honourable friend has told the House, the majority of the people of the State of Pakistan speak Bengalee. Therefore, Bengalee must find a place as one of the media in which the Members can address the Assembly. Another difficulty will be that if any Member speaks in his mother tongue, but if it is not one of the media in which the Members can address the House, the true speech will not be recorded, but only a translation of the speech in the proceedings of the House will be recorded. Therefore, it is necessary for the majority of the people of the State that the speeches which will be delivered in Bengalee should be recorded in Bengalee. With these few words I support the amendment moved by Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta.

The Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Prime Minister and Minister for Defence): Mr. President, Sir, I listened to the speech of the Hon'ble the Mover of the amendment with very great care and attention. I wish the Hon'ble member had not moved his amendment and tried to create misunderstanding between the different parts of Pakistan. My Honourable friend has waxed eloquent and stated that Bengalee should really be the *lingua franca* of Pakistan. In other words, he does not want Bengalee only to be used as a medium of expression in this House, but he has raised indeed a very important question. He should realise that Pakistan has been created because of the demand of a hundred million Muslims in this sub-continent and the language of a hundred million Muslims is Urdu and, therefore, it is wrong for him now to try and create the situation that as the majority of the people of Pakistan belongs to one part of Pakistan, therefore the language which is spoken there should become the State language of Pakistan. Pakistan is a Muslim State and it must have as its *lingua franca* the language of the Muslim nation. My Honourable friend is displeased that Urdu should replace English. The intention is that instead of having English as the State language which it has been so long, Urdu should be the state language, Sir, my honourable friend never minded it, never pressed for Bengalee as long as English was the State language. I never heard in the Central Assembly for years and years any voice raised by the people of Bengal that Bengalee should be the State language. I want to know why is this voice being raised today and I am sorry that he should feel it necessary to bring in this question. We do recognise the importance of Bengalee. There is no intention to oust Bengalee altogether from Bengal. As a matter of fact, it would be wrong for anyone to thrust any other language on the people of a province which is not their mother tongue, but, at the same time, we must have a State language—the language which would be used between the different parts of Pakistan for inter-provincial communications. Then, Sir, it is not only the population you have to take into consideration. There are so many other factors. Urdu can be the only language which can keep the people of East Bengal or Eastern Zone and the people of Western Zone joined together. It is necessary for a nation to have one language and that language can only be Urdu and no other language. Sir, as I have said, there is no intention on the part of the Government or anybody else that Bengalee should be done away with. As a matter of fact, I have always felt and it is my personal view, based on long experience, that you should not teach a child in any other language, except his own mother tongue. The medium of instruction of every part of a country should be the mother tongue of that part of the country. I do realise that for years to come it would be only a dream—if anybody has such a dream—to think that Urdu would replace Bengalee altogether in Bengal. The intention is not that. Therefore, Sir, I am sorry I cannot agree to the amendment which has been moved. As a matter of fact, when the notice of that amendment was given, I thought that the object was an innocent one. The object to include Bengalee was that in case there are some people who are not proficient in English or Urdu might express their views in that language, but I find now that the object is not such an innocent one as I thought it was. The object of this amendment is to create a rift between the people of Pakistan. The object of this amendment is to take away from the Mussalmans that unifying force that brings them together.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Dutta : Certainly not. That is not the intention.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My honourable friend may go on questioning for the rest of his life. He has done that. Was it not necessary for the people of Bengal—Bengalee-speaking people—to have remained united? No, because it was to be a State where Mussalmans were in a majority. Therefore, Bengal must be divided. There was no question of Bengalee language or Bengali culture taken into consideration at that time.

The Hon'ble Sardar Abdur Rab Khan Nishtar (Minister for Communications) : The Hon'ble Member voted for division.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : Anyhow I am not concerned with that part of it.

I think it is wrong for my Honourable friend to raise this question. It is really the most vital question, a question of life and death for the Muslim nation not only for Pakistan but throughout this whole sub-continent and I most strongly oppose the amendment which has been moved. I hope the House will not lend its support to such a kind of amendment, if ever it comes forward in future.

Mr. Bhupendra Kumar Datta (East Bengal : General) : Sir, we press this amendment in no frivolous spirit of opposition. I am surprised at the speech the Honorable the Leader of the House has just made. I wish he had not made some of the remarks he chose to make. They will have unfortunate repercussions elsewhere even in certain sections in Pakistan. Therefore it is all the more necessary that this amendment should be pressed.

I tour frequently in the part of the country to which I belong and I know the strength of the feeling there over this matter. Bengalee is the language of the overwhelming majority there, it is the only language spoken and understood there. It is also the language of the overwhelming majority of the entire state of Pakistan. I find in this House sometimes a tendency to emulate or to draw parallels to things that happen in the other Union. Even yesterday, when the discussion on the question of redistribution of seats was going on, my friend, Mr. Datta, was interrupted and asked : " What was taking place in the Indian Dominion ?" But in this vital matter there is a departure. In the Indian Union, they have adopted the language of the largest single section of population.

Several Voices : question, question.

Mr. Bhupendra Kumar Datta : But here we are adopting Urdu. Urdu is not the language of any of the Provinces constituting the Dominion of Pakistan. It is the language of the upper few of Western Pakistan. This opposition to the amendment proves an effort, a determined effort on the part of the upper few of Western Pakistan at dominating the State of Pakistan.

Sir, we have come to this House on the majority of votes of the common people of Pakistan. And then we are putting the language bar against that majority and bolting the door against the common people of Pakistan.

It cannot be questioned that Bengalee is the spoken language and known to the majority of the people of Pakistan. Besides, it is the richest language in the whole of the sub-continent in every sense of the word. The Bengalee people are put to a disadvantage in every manner. The capital of the State is far removed from the place where the majority of the people dwell and then this language bar is put against the majority of the common people of the State. This is certainly not a tendency towards democracy : it is a tendency towards domination of the upper few of a particular region of the State. We are not yet pressing it to be the *lingua franca* of the State. We are merely demanding that it to be included as one of the three languages to be permitted here. Even the language, which unfortunately I am speaking at the moment—the English language—which remains with us as a souvenir of slavery is given a place of honour, but not the language of the common people, the majority of the common people. That is a pity. We are merely pressing it to be only one of the three languages and I hope there would be no objection or opposition from any section of the House and this amendment will be passed.

The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Minister for Refugees, Relief & Rehabilitation) : Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. I am afraid that an attempt is being made to confuse the issue. As a matter of fact there is no bar against any Member of this House expressing himself in Bengalee if he wants to do so. May I remind the Honourable Members that according to rule 29 the

Chairman may permit any Honourable Member who cannot adequately express himself in any of those languages (that is Urdu or English) to address the Assembly in his mother tongue? So in the rule, as it stands, there is nothing to stop a Bengalee Member who cannot adequately express himself either in Urdu or English from expressing himself in Bengalee with the permission of the Chairman. Therefore, Sir, the arguments given so far, have no relevancy whatsoever so far as the present rule is concerned.

As regards the question of giving importance to the language of one particular province, may I ask the Mover of this amendment that if other Members had moved amendments saying that "Punjabi", "Pushtu" and "Sindhi" should be added to this rule, what would have been his reaction to such a proposal?

Mr. Bhupendra Kumar Datta : It should be the language of the majority for the common people of the State.

The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan : Honourable Members are harping on one thing that the will of the majority must prevail. Let me assure my Honourable friends that the fundamental principle of the Pakistan Government is to take into consideration the rights of the minorities. I am surprised that when it suits the members of the minority community they should stress the argument that if any particular province happens to be in a majority, the will of that province must prevail. It is not only the question of votes, but it is a question of merit as well. Let me assure my Honourable friend that he is sadly mistaken when he says that there is a Bengal State. There is no such state as a Bengal State : There is only one State and that is the State of Pakistan and all these provinces are different provinces of the State of Pakistan. There is only one State and there shall be one language, the State language and that is Urdu. We have put English language there because it is a necessary evil and we must carry on with it for a few years more but we will get rid of it as quickly as possible. I am sure the time is not far off when every member of the Pakistan State will be well conversant with the State language which is Urdu. It is not a question of whether Urdu is a Punjabi language or it is a Western Pakistan language. Urdu is not a language or dialect of Punjab, it is not a dialect of Sind, nor is it a dialect of the North-West Frontier Province, but it is the language of the Muslim culture and the Muslim civilisation is, therefore, our national language.

Let me assure my Honourable friend that so far as the questions of money orders, etc. are concerned, these are small little things. Money order forms or the telegram forms are matters of minor details and I have not the slightest doubt that if these matters are brought to the notice of the House at a proper time and in a proper way, every attempt will be made to meet the desire of those people.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Khan Nishtar : Orders have already been issued to that effect.

The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan : I am glad to know that orders have been issued, because the object is not to put to inconvenience any people of any province. I am sure the Bengal Government realise their responsibility and they will take immediate steps to popularise Urdu in the schools so that after a period of 10 or 15 years there may not be a single Bengali who will not be well conversant with the national language of the State. No nation or State can exist unless they have a common language. That is a thing which nobody can challenge. I ask my Honourable friend what does he expect? Should there be no State language? He was talking of the sister Dominion. Now what did the Bengalis do? Did any body give an amendment that Bengalee should be given the same status as Hindi?

[The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan]

Then there is Marahati, Tamil. Did anybody give notice of an amendment that Tamil should be given the same status as Hindi or Hindusthani or English? Did anybody here objected the word "English" being there and does he mean to say that every single province in the other Dominion would have rightful claim to have the dialect of that province included as a language of the State. Therefore, Sir, all these questions are irrelevant. I am very glad to notice that the representatives of the majority of East Bengal do realise and do feel that it will be really hitting the very existence of Pakistan if they start these controversies or try to have their own point of view forced upon this House which represents all provinces and all sections of the populations of Pakistan. I do hope, the Honourable member will kindly withdraw his amendment because as long as it is not withdrawn, the impression which has been created by his moving this amendment will go abroad that the object and aim of this amendment was to create confusion in the minds of the various provinces. With these words I oppose the amendment.

The Honourable Khwaja Nazimuddin (East Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I feel it my duty to let the House know what the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the people of Eastern Pakistan over this question of Bengalee language is. I think, there will be no contradiction if I say that as far as inter-communication between the Provinces and the Centre is concerned, they feel that Urdu is the only language that can be adopted. But there is a very strong feeling that the medium of instruction should be Bengalee in Educational Institutions and as far as the administration of the province is concerned, the language used in administering the province should also be Bengalee. I am glad to find that the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has made it clear that there is no question of ousting Bengalee from the province and I am sure that the overwhelming majority of the people are in favour of having Urdu as the State Language for the Pakistan State as a whole.

There is another point which I would like to correct. The previous speakers who have supported this amendment have made out that Hindi is the language of the majority of the people in the other Dominion. That, I think, is not correct. As far as Madras, Bombay, C. P., Orissa, are concerned, in these provinces, Hindi is not their mother tongue. I think, I can state that even in U. P., the majority of the people in that Province speak Urdu and those who advocated Hindi, find it very difficult to make a fluent speech in Hindi in the Assembly or in public meetings. So, Hindi is not the mother tongue of all the provinces in the Indian Dominion and yet Hindi has been accepted as the State language there. Therefore, on that analogy, Sir, there is no ground for supporting the theory that Bangalee should be the State language of Pakistan, but I do feel very strongly over the question of language as far as the Province of Bengal is concerned.

I would raise the question in proper time and like to press the case that so far as general administration and government business in the provincial sphere is concerned, the language to be used should be Bengalee within Bengal.

Mr. Sris Chandra Chattopadhyaya (East Bengal : General): Mr. President, Sir, it pains me to hear the Hon'ble the Leader of the House when he says that Pakistan is a Muslim State. So long my idea was that Pakistan is the peoples' State and it belongs to the Muslims as well as to the non Muslims. If today the statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House is accepted then it is a matter of serious consideration for the non-Muslims whether they have any right to take any part in the framing of the constitution as well. That is really very important question because in that case, Muslims only, and it is also desirable, should frame their own constitution. I have already told you and told this House that so long in my speeches I asserted to the people of my part of the country that the Pakistan is not merely a Muslim

State, but it is a State of the Muslims as well as that of non-Muslims, *i.e.*, it is peoples' State. That is a matter, I desire the Honourable the Leader of the House to clarify so that in future we may decide our line of action and know our position also in the State.

Here the amendment says—it never said about the State language—how the proceedings of the House are to be conducted. There is mention of Urdu as well as English. He only wants to add Bengalee. If the House accepts, well and good but so far as *lingua franca* is concerned, it is not a point at issue today but even if it is made Urdu, I have no objection to accept it but nobody knows Urdu. We learned English and now we shall learn Urdu, if necessary. I myself tried to learn Urdu with my Honourable friend, Mr. Tamizuddin Ahmad, when we were in Jail, but out of jail I have forgotten it. (*Laughter.*) So the conducting of proceedings of this House is quite a different thing from the selection of *lingua franca*. His amendment is as to how the proceedings of this House are to be conducted? In Urdu, in English or in Bengalee? That is the only point raised by this amendment, and I am sure that by moving this amendment, he has done nothing to incur the displeasure of the Honourable the Leader of the House. With these words, I support the amendment.

Alhaj Muhammed Hashim Gazder (Sind : Muslim) : Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment. I do not want to repeat the arguments given, but I want to draw the attention of this honourable House and through this honourable House of the people of Pakistan in general, that though this amendment looks very innocent on the face of it, through it runs the danger of breaking Pakistan. This amendment as it looks, is quite innocent, but I think I will be able to explain to the Honourable the mover of this amendment, that it is not a new point and that Bengalee speaking gentlemen in this honourable House, who do not know how to express themselves in English or Urdu are already permitted under the rule to express themselves in Bengalee. The Honourable the mover has brought the cat out of the bag, when he said that the State language of the Pakistan Dominion should be Bengalee, because theirs is the majority. Sir, it is a dangerous move and we should recognise that as such.

I would like to ask the mover of this amendment why has our sister dominion, India, adopted Hindi? There is only one reason, Sir, that they want to have a national language to unite all Indians. Sir, if you look at the map of India, you will find so many languages spoken all over and that people of one province do not understand even a single word of language of another province. Look at Bengali, Oriya languages and then come to Madras; you have got there Tamil, Tolegu and Malayalam; come to Bombay, we have Canarese, Maharati and Gujerati; Sir, you will find all over different languages are spoken. Even in U. P., Sir, you will find the present language which they have adopted is not understood by those who are known to speak Urdu or Hindi.

The idea behind was to unite the nation without any regard whether people understand it or not; also whether a cultivator can send a telegram or write a money order form in that language or not. But Pakistan is one dominion and we are separated from East Bengal by 1,400 miles. So, if we do not have a strong tie of common language, naturally our contacts will be very weak. Sir, we do not want that our Pakistan should be broken up by this method of accepting an innocent looking amendment. I, therefore, appeal to this House to throw out this amendment. So far as my friends from Bengal are concerned, Khwaja Nazimuddin has explained the position of Bengali that it is assured in that Province and Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan has also explained that the rules do provide that our Bengali friends can speak in Bengali in this House I, therefore, appeal to this House to throw out this amendment.

***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan** : Sir, I have very little to add to what has already been said against the amendment moved by my Honourable friend,

[Mr. Tamizuddin Khan]

Mr. Datta. One thing that has been said by the Honourable the acting Leader of the Congress Party here seems to me to be of some importance. He said that the Honourable the Leader of the House in the course of his speech stated that this is a Muslim State and his apprehension is that if that is so, where the minorities are. So far as that question is concerned, you, Sir, made it clear on the very first day and it has been made clear from a thousand platforms that all minorities in Pakistan will enjoy equal rights with the majority. They will have the same rights as the majority have. That position, I think, remains unaltered. The Honourable the Leader of the House has called it a Muslim State. There are people who call India a Hindu State. We call Turkey a Muslim country and also Egypt a Muslim country. But does that mean that there are no non-Muslims in those countries? So far as America is concerned, till recently, all Indians, irrespective of the fact whether they were Hindus or Muslims or Parsees or Christians, were called Hindus. The substance of the thing does not depend upon the name. It is absolutely clear, as clear as anything can be, that every citizen of Pakistan, who is loyal to Pakistan, has the same rights and privileges.

So far as the other question is concerned, I do not want to add anything to what has already been said.

Sir, I cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. President : The question is :

“That in sub-rule (1) of rule 29, after the word ‘English’ in line 2, the word ‘Bengalee,’ be inserted.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member can now move his second amendment.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta : Sir, in view of the decision of the House with respect to my first amendment, my second amendment falls through and it cannot be moved.

Mr. President : You do not want to move it.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta : No, Sir, I do not move it ; it falls through.

Mr. President : The question now is :—

“That rule 29 stand part of the Rules.”

The motion was adopted.

Rule 29 was then added to the Rules of Procedure.

Mr. President : There is one more amendment which has been sent in the name of Khwaja Shahabuddin and it is a very long one. After my arrival here this morning, I have got some more amendments to these amendments in the name of Mr. Datta. Now, I think Honourable Members probably could not have properly applied their mind either to the amendments of Khwaja Shahabuddin or to the amendments of those amendments by Mr. Datta. I got the amendments of Khwaja Shahabuddin only last night and the Honourable Members must have got them very late. I do not want to rush the House and therefore what I propose to do is, this—that the Constituent Assembly should meet again on the 2nd of March at 5 o'clock. In the meantime, Honourable Members will have time to examine these amendments. Further, I do not know whether you are aware, with the leave of the Governor-General under the present constitutional powers, a Bill has been allowed to be published and that Bill is intended to alter the date of the powers of the Governor-General which were to be terminated by the end of March 1948 ; that Bill aims at extending those powers for one year more. Now, my consent was given merely as a formality in order that it will dispense with the motion to introduce the Bill : nothing more. Now that these rules are in front of you, it lays down the

procedure for amending the present constitutional rules, including the Independence Act. It was for the Constituent Assembly, as you are perhaps aware, to frame its own rules. The Constituent Assembly was formed by an Order of which perhaps you are aware and there it was suggested that the Constituent Assembly will frame its own rules. You have accordingly proceeded to frame your own rules, but you have not yet finished framing those rules. This remaining portion will be taken up at 5 o'clock on the 2nd March. If the Honourable Member wants to move that Bill which has already been published, then he should see that it is put on the agenda and a copy of it is also circulated to all the Members.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : It has already been circulated to all the Members.

Mr. President : Therefore, I now propose that that should be done. In the meantime, I adjourn the House till 5 o'clock on 2nd March, 1948.

The Assembly then adjourned till Five of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd March, 1948.

